

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 314164 TOSEC 340167
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE:MG
APPROVED BY S/S-O: LRMACFARLANE
-----311922Z 044397 /44

O 311908Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 314164 TOSEC 340167

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS ITEMS ON TRAVEL IN SINALOA

FOR COVEY FROM OPERATIONS CENTER

FOLLOWING ARE TWO UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL WIRE
STORIES ON TRAVEL IN SINALOA:

1. "DRIVING IN MEXICO BY JUAN WALTE: (FROM WASHINGTON)
"THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION TODAY WARNED AMERICAN
TOURISTS TO AVOID SEVERAL BANDIT-INFESTED HIGHWAYS IN
THE WESTERN MEXICAN STATES OF SINALOA AND BAJA CALIFORNIA.

"THE ASSOCIATION SAID IT WAS TOLD BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFIARS THAT SINCE MAY,
HIGHWAY BANDITS HAVE MURDERED SEVERAL AMERICANS (INCLUDING
A FATHER AND DAUGHTER ON CHRISTMAS DAY) AND ROBBED AT
LEAST ANOTHER 18.

"THE BANDITS HAVE GENERALLY TAKEN ALL OF THE MOTORISTS'
POSSESSIONS, INCLUDING THEIR VEHICLES,' AAA SAID.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 314164 TOSEC 340167

"IN A SIMILAR WARNING A WEEK AGO, THE ASSOCIATION
URGED PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ.PORTILLO TO ELIMINATE HAZARDS

FACING TOURISTS AND OTHERS TRAVELING IN MEXICO.

"SINCE THEN, THE SITUATION HAS GOTTEN WORSE' FOR AMERICANS IN THOSE MEXICAN AREAS ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT RELEASED TODAY BY AAA.

"MOST OF THE INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED ON HIGHWAY 15, NEAR THE CITY OF CULIACAN, IN THE NORTHWESTERN STATE OF SINALOA. IN RECENT DAYS, THE MEXICAN ARMY HAS BEEN CALLED IN TO STEM A WAVE OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THAT AREA.

"AAA, WHICH HAS MORE THAN 18 BILLION MEMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, QUOTED A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT EVENTUALLY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING THE SITUATION.

"HOWEVER, IN ALL CANDOR, WE CAN ONLY ADVISE AMERICAN MOTORISTS THAT FOR THE TIME BEING MOTOR TRAVEL THROUGH OR IN SINALOA ENTAILS SUBSTANTIAL RISK,' THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TOLD AAA. THE ASSOCIATION ALSO LISTED AS RISKY SOME REMOTE HIGHWAYS IN BAJA CALIFORNIA." (12/30/76 03:42)

2. "(NO BYLINE)--MAZATLAN, MEXICO -- POLICE SAY A PASSING POLICEMAN FIRED ON THE POSSIBLE KILLERS OF AN ILLINOIS MINISTER AND HIS DAUGHTER CHRISTMAS DAY AS THREE MEN FLED THE SCENE OF THE SLAYING.

"IN A REPORT PUBLISHED THURSDAY, SINALOA STATE POLICE CHIEF ANDRES IBARRA ALBA SAID POLICEMAN MANUEL SARABIA LEYVA SPOTTED THE PARTIALLY OVERTURNED CAR OF JOHN O. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 314164 TOSEC 340167

GHARST, 69, OF EDGEWOOD, ILL., AS HE WAS PASSING ON A BUS.

"THE POLICEMAN JUMPED OFF THE BUS AND SAW AN ARMED MAN TRYING TO CLIMB INTO A STATION WAGON WITHOUT LICENSE PLATES, WHICH SPED OFF WITHOUT HIM.

";ARABIA LEYVA FIRED AT THE MAN, BUT MISSED, IRARRA ALBA REPORTED. THE MAN ESCAPED INTO THE NEARBY UNDERBRUSH.

"INSIDE THE CAR, POLICE FOUND GHARST'S BODY AND THAT OF HIS 43-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, LORELI GHARST BROWN, SLUMPED ON THE FRONT SEAT.

"THEY HAD BEEN SHOT IN THE FACE FROM POINT-BLANK RANGE.

"IBARRA SAID NEARLY 100 ARMED POLICEMEN WERE CONTINUING TO COMB THE WOODED, HILLY AREA FOR THE KILLERS. HOWEVER, DENSE FOG IMPEDED THE HUNT.

"ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE STATION WAGON WAS SEEN IN A GASOLINE STATION IN THE VILLAGE OF EL PALMITO, ABOUT 80 MILES EAST OF THIS PACIFIC PORT, WHERE GHARST AND HIS DAUGHTER HAD STOPPED TO REFUEL THEIR RED AND WHITE COMPACT CAR. THEY APPARENTLY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO DURANGO FROM MAZATLAN.

"WITNESSES, THE REPORT SAID, SAW THREE LONG-HAIRED YOUTHS IN THE STATION WAGON, ONE WEARING A US ARMY CAP, FOLLOW THE GHARST VEHICLE.

"THE SLAYINGS OCCURRED JUST THREE MILES FROM THE GAS STATION.

"GHARST, A FORMER TEACHER, AND HIS DAUGHTER, A TEACHER IN THE ARCOLA, ILL., SCHOOL SYSTEM, WERE ON A MOTORING TOUR OF MEXICO.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 314164 TOSEC 340167

"MEANWHILE, THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION, QUOTING THE US STATE DEPARTMENT, THURSDAY WARNED THAT TRAVEL IN SINALOA INVOLVED 'SUBSTANTIAL RISK.'

"ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SINCE MAY MORE THAN 18 HIGHWAY ROBBERIES INVOLVING AMERICANS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN SINALOA." (12/31/76 06:07)

ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, CITIZEN PROTECTION, PROVINCE, MURDER, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, THEFTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE314164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:LRMACFARLANE:MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D770001-0677
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaacy.tel
Line Count: 150
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <29 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ITEMS ON TRAVEL IN SINALOA FOR COVEY FROM OPERATIONS CENTER FOLLOWING ARE TWO UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL WIRE
TAGS: SOPN, CASC, ELTN, PORS, MX
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006